

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 ATHENS 05453 281439Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08
FRB-03 INR-10 NSAE-00 SP-02 STR-07 TRSE-00 LAB-04
SIL-01 OMB-01 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 L-03 NSC-05
PA-01 SS-15 ICA-11 /096 W
-----066629 291708Z /43

R 281404Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6499
INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ATHENS 5453

USOECD; USEEC

E. O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ECON, EC, GR
SUBJECT: KARAMANLIS REASSURING ON ECONOMY AND EC ACCESSION

REF: ATHENS 4742 (NOTAL)

1. ADDRESSING THE INAUGURAL SESSION OF THE RECENTLY CREATED COUNCIL OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL POLICY (SEE REFTTEL) ON JUNE 27, PRIME MINISTER KARAMANLIS PRESENTED A GENERALLY UPBEAT REVIEW OF THE STATE OF THE GREEK ECONOMY AND THE STRONGEST POLITICAL RATIONALE FOR GREEK ACCESSION TO THE EC THAT WE HAVE HEARD SINCE THE NOVEMBER ELECTIONS. ACKNOWLEDGING THAT INFLATION REMAINS THE "ACHILLES' HEEL" OF THE ECONOMY, KARAMANLIS NONETHELESS CONTENDED THAT THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF THE COUNTRY TO DATE HAS BEEN ENTIRELY SATISFACTORY. "THE GOVERNMENT IS NOT CLAIMING THAT GREECE HAS BECOME A PARADISE," HE SAID, "BUT IT IS NOT HELL AS THE OPPOSITION WISHES TO CLAIM. THE COUNTRY IS SIMPLY IN A BETTER SITUATION THAN MANY OTHER COUNTRIES IN EUROPE." MORE NOTABLE, HOWEVER, WAS THE TIME AND
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 ATHENS 05453 281439Z

SPACE HE DEVOTED IN HIS SPEECH TO REASSURING HIS LISTENERS THAT GREEK ACCESSION TO THE EC WOULD SAFEGUARD THE COUNTRY'S INTERESTS, INDEPENDENCE AND DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS.

2. AFTER LISTING IN FAMILIAR TERMS THE ECONOMIC ADVANTAGES THAT WOULD ACCRUE TO GREECE FOLLOWING ACCESSION, KARAMANLIS TOLD THE COUNCIL THAT "OUR ENTRY INTO THE ECONOMIC COMMUNITY IS

ALSO A POLITICAL CHOICE WHICH WILL PAY A DECISIVE ROLE IN THE COUNTRY'S FUTURE"; AND HE ASKED HIS AUDIENCE TO "PAY SPECIAL ATTENTION" TO THIS PART OF HIS REMARKS. OBVIOUSLY REFERRING TO PASOK AND OTHER LEFT-OPPOSITION CHARGES THAT GREEK ENTRY INTO THE COMMUNITY WILL BRING WITH IT AN INFRINGEMENT OF GREEK SOVEREIGNTY, THE PRIME MINISTER ASSERTED THAT "OUR NATIONAL INDEPENDENCE WILL BE DECISIVELY SAFEGUARDED ONLY THROUGH EQUAL PARTICIPATION IN A POWERFUL GROUP OF FREE, INDEPENDENT AND DEMOCRATIC NATIONS . . . AND NOT THROUGH THE 'UNATTACHED POLICY' THAT LEADS TO ISOLATION, ECONOMIC STAGNATION AND UNTOLD EXTERNAL DANGERS." MOREOVER, HE CONTINUED, PARTICIPATION IN A UNITED EUROPE WOULD SAFEGUARD DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS IN GREECE SINCE THE ENTIRE INSTITUTIONAL STRUCTURE OF THE ECONOMIC COMMUNITY PRESUPPOSES THE FUNCTIONING OF DEMOCRATIC POLITICAL SYSTEMS IN THE MEMBER COUNTRIES. "THIS MEANS," HE SAID, "THAT IT WILL BE IMPOSSIBLE FOR ANY COUP TO BE ATTEMPTED AGAINST DEMOCRACY, FOR THOSE WHO DARE SUCH A THING WILL KNOW THAT ON THE MORROW THEY WILL BE MISSED FROM THE COMMUNITY WITH GRIEVOUS CONSEQUENCES FOR THE COUNTRY".

3. COMMENT: KARAMANLIS' ADDRESS TO THE NEW 50- MEMBER COUNCIL OF MANAGEMENT, LABOR, FARM AND GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVES CHARGED WITH ADVISING THE GOG ON SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC POLICY MATTERS WAS NOTABLE ON TWO COUNTS: FIRST, FOR THE SURPRISINGLY COMPLACENT TONE WITH WHICH GREEK ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE WAS DESCRIBED, PARTICULARLY SO TO A GROUP ON WHICH HOPES HAVE BEEN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 ATHENS 05453 281439Z

PLACED TO DEVELOP A NATIONAL CONSENSUS IN SUPPORT OF MORE STRINGENT GOVERNMENT POLICIES TO CURB INFLATION; AND, SECOND, FOR ITS STRONG REAFFIRMATION OF THE POLITICAL IMPERATIVES FOR GREEK ENTRY INTO THE ECONOMIC COMMUNITY. THE FORMER WOULD APPEAR TO CONFIRM REPORTS FROM OTHER SOURCES THAT DESPITE GOVERNMENT INTENTIONS TO ADOPT A STRONGER PRICE AND INCOMES POLICY, DOMESTIC POLITICAL CONSIDERATIONS DICTATE THAT SUCH MOVES PROCEED SLOWLY AND FOLLOW, RATHER THAN PRECEDE, A NATIONAL AWARENESS AND ACCEPTANCE OF THEIR NECESSITY. THE SECOND, HOWEVER, MAY SIGNAL A MORE DETERMINED EFFORT BY THE GOG TO PERSUADE THE POPULATION OF BOTH THE POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC MERITS OF GREECE'S ENTRY INTO THE COMMUNITY AS THE DATE FOR SIGNING THE ACCESSION AGREEMENT DRAWS NEARER AND PASOK'S DEMAND FOR A NATIONAL REFERENDUM ON THE ISSUE REMAINS UNRELENTING.

MCCLOSKEY

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, ECONOMIC CONDITIONS, COMMITTEES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 28 jun 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978ATHENS05453
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780269-0622
Format: TEL
From: ATHENS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780614/aaaaalin.tel
Line Count: 109
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 8c5de57e-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 ATHENS 4742
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2185425
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: KARAMANLIS REASSURING ON ECONOMY AND EC ACCESSION
TAGS: ECON, EC, GR, (KARAMANLIS, CONSTANTINE)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/8c5de57e-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014